

INCOMING AIRGRAM

Department of State

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Date Sent:

NOVEMBER 10, 1959

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FROM: USSEUR

TO: Ambassador Bonn G-98

REF: SecState WASH G-108

NO: Ambassador PARIS UNN

Paris for USCHIEF Tuzet and Finn

REF: Bonn's G-209 to Department

SUBJECT: Berlin Air Contingency Planning

We agree with Embassy that a layer in each air corridor for non-Allied traffic running the length of the corridor would be undesirable. It was the intention of the penultimate paragraph of our G-70 to Bonn, G-73 to Washington--though admittedly this paragraph was not clearly worded--to suggest that consideration be given to designating corridor crossing belts at right angles to the corridors.

Unless crossing areas are designated, the three Allied corridors without altitude limitation would in effect block non-Allied air traffic over much of East Germany, or if Communists decide to disregard such a "blockade," increase risk of air collision. If we do not intend such a "blockade" presumably we would have to make provision for non-Allied air traffic to cross the corridors, and to do so in a way which would not endanger the safety of our aircraft.

Corridor crossing areas--i.e. "belts" at right angles to corridors--could be designated at altitudes convenient to us at, say, 40 miles from the Berlin control zone, so that the crossover belts do not interfere with letdown paths of Allied jets using the corridors at high altitudes.

LIGHTER

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